



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No: 37697-0033

In re patent application of

Edward W. MERRILL et al.

Serial No.: 09/764,445

Filed: January 19, 2001

For: Radiation and Melt Treated Ultra High Molecular Weight
Polyethylene Prosthetic Devices

Confirmation No.: 8881

Art Unit: 3738

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1-31-02

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT B

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please enter the following amendments. Please debit any underpayments, or credit any overpayments, to firm deposit account no. 08-1641.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please add the claims set forth below.

b' 131. (New) An orthopaedic preformed material for subsequent production of a medical implant with improved wear resistance, said preformed material is a polyethylene crosslinked by irradiation, and thermally treated according to the method selected from the group consisting of: annealing and remelting.